CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 15 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KAZAKHSTAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN CONCERNING THE UNDERGROUND TEST OF THREE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES CARRIED OUT BY INDIA ON 11 MAY

I have the honour to transmit to you the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan concerning the underground test of three nuclear explosive devices at the Pokhran test site in India on 11 May 1998.

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present Statement as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) B. Utemuratov
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan is authorized to state that Kazakhstan views with deep concern the announcement of the conduct on 11 May 1998 of underground tests of three nuclear devices at the Pokhran test site in India. That action endangers the progress in the sphere of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation that has emerged since the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The conduct of the nuclear tests by India will lead to the escalation of tension in the region. Kazakhstan is of the view that the conditions put forward by India regarding accession to the CTBT should only be discussed through negotiations aimed at achieving mutually acceptable solutions to the existing problems in the sphere of nuclear disarmament.

The Republic of Kazakhstan calls on India to renounce the nuclear "option" and to confirm its aspiration to the achievement of safe and stable peace, global partnership and economic development.

Astana, 13 May 1998